

ABSTRACT

A hybrid telecommunications switch includes synchronous transfer mode (STM) and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch fabrics, and a controller. The controller is configured to separate incoming ATM from STM traffic and to provide access, through a connection admission control (CAC) protocol to an STM fabric for ATM traffic. In one aspect of the invention, real-time traffic, such as voice traffic, may be separated from non-real-time traffic, such as Internet email traffic. Once separated, the real time traffic may be switched through a circuit switch fabric and the non-real-time traffic may be switched through a packet switch fabric. ATM traffic, such as CBR and rt-VBR may aggregated "on-the-fly", that is, without pre-provisioning, and switched through the hybrid switch's circuit switch fabric. ATM traffic falling into other categories is routed through a packet switch fabric.

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